

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

June 20, 2006

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear President Bush:

After serving as your Secretary of Transportation for over five productive and memorable years, it is time for me to move on to other challenges. Coming to this conclusion has been very difficult, but I am submitting my resignation to you effective July 7, 2006.

I have been engaged in transportation issues over my entire public career, which is now in its fourth decade. You crossed party lines and gave me the high honor to serve you as the Cabinet Secretary charged with implementing national policies in this area. As you know, I love the subject matter and feel passionately about transportation. Working with you has been particularly rewarding and most gratifying, especially since I have been able to do so with your full support and confidence.

While there remains more to be done - a job such as this is never truly completed - I can assure you that the Department of Transportation is well positioned, with highly competent and dedicated people you brought in as well as the civil service work force, to fulfill the mission that you and the Congress advance in the years ahead. You signed SAFETEA-LU, the major reauthorization for a safe and expansive transportation system. Last month, your Administration announced a plan that will seriously reduce traffic congestion nationally and will improve the quality of life for all Americans while keeping our economy strong. I am proud to be passing that legacy on to my successor.

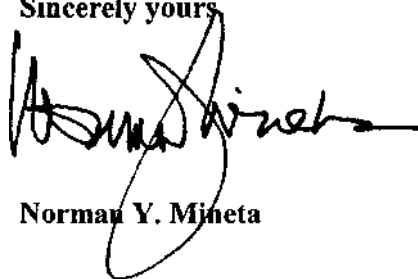
I am proud, too, of the work that all of my Department of Transportation colleagues did in the wake of the horrific terrorist attacks on our great country on September 11, 2001. From the earliest moments of that horrible day and for weeks and months after, the personnel of the Department performed quickly, courageously and effectively. From bringing thousands of civilian flights to safe landings in a few hours, to designing, creating and staffing the Transportation Security Administration in less than a year, the people in the DOT served our Nation and your Administration very well.

Also, without any fanfare or publicity, men and women of our Department of Transportation have contributed significantly to the rebuilding of Afghanistan's and Iraq's transportation infrastructure. They have been there working long and harrowing days helping these two countries rejoin the world's economic community, free and well equipped to succeed and prosper. You can be proud that we are making a positive and lasting difference in the lives of the people of both Nations. The litany of accomplishments of this Department, however, goes on and on.

Mr. President, I am especially proud to have served you during this difficult and challenging time in our Nation's political history. There is much talk these days about a lack of civility in our political discourse and of deep ideological and partisan divisions at every level of government, most especially here in Washington, D.C. There is enough evidence to suggest that such talk and the concerns that it reflects are not without merit. But, since our first conversation in Austin on January 2, 2001, up until and including this very day, you have treated me - a Democrat - with great respect and courtesy. You and the First Lady have been most gracious to Deni, our family, and me. Over the past five and half years, I would like to think that you and I have demonstrated, even in a small way, that different political affiliations do not have to translate into opposing views on the value of public policy issues or the nobility of public service.

In continuance of a relationship built on mutual trust and shared ideals, as well as a considerable measure of real affection, I respectfully submit this letter of resignation.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman Y. Mineta", with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Norman Y. Mineta